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County Life

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NOVEMBER 25, 2021

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Building connections
Resources for youth.
See page 2

A few pointers
Advice for growing Christmas cactus.
See page 7

Award-winning volunteer
Bonnie Roe receives award in Toronto.
See page 8.

Santa's helper Kate Butler hands out candy to kids on Highland Street during the Santa Claus Parade in 2019, which is the last time Haliburton hosted a parade. The parade will return this year on Nov. 26. / FILE photo

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Open the door to new connections with quick access at Point In Time

We all struggle in our lives. Sometimes things happen that are out of our control; sometimes we feel out of control; sometimes we don't know why we feel the way we do. Whatever the trouble is, you don't have to go through it alone. There is a point in time when families need the support of a caring professional, especially at times like these, after all the pandemic pressures of the last two years. If you are a young person or the caregiver of a young person who needs someone to talk to, there are a few ways you can get connected to the services you need through Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents.

Point in Time is a charitable, not-for-profit, broad spectrum community services agency with strong community roots that provides services to residents of Haliburton County to help them reach their highest potential.

The agency is primarily maintained through provincial funding, with some programs and events supported through donations from individuals and businesses.

The door to most of Point in Time's services is the Quick Access Clinic, created in 2017 to get children, youth and families the help they needed in a timely manner. The clinic provides rapid access (from next day to two weeks) to confidential supports and tools to help navigate difficult issues, focus on strengths, and determine next steps.

Quick Access sessions are available to children and youth aged 0 to 18 and their families. Quick Access services have continued throughout the pandemic and people may elect to attend in person at the Minden or Haliburton offices or via Zoom or phone.

Youth can attend a Quick Access session accompanied by their caregiver, or on their own. Youth twelve years and older can self-refer, calling the offices directly to book an appointment. Referrals from teachers and other professionals are also welcome, with the youths' consent.

Anyone who wants to be seen can get an appointment – no diagnosis required – and sometimes one appointment is all that is needed.

Marg Cox, Executive Director at Point in Time, says the Quick Access program has helped the agency better utilize its resources and support people in a shorter timeframe. "It's a very effective model – it makes good use of our team's collective skills and expertise, and helps youth and families recognize and build on their existing strengths to tackle challenges", said Cox.

Quick Access sessions have proven beneficial results. Last year, 93 per cent of parents and youth and 78 per cent of children attending the sessions rated their experience with Quick Access positively. A youth responding last year's annual client evaluation survey wrote: "I'm not a person that opens up ever or likes to talk about my feelings but the workers here at Point in Time have made it really, really easy for me to feel comfortable and be able to open up without any pressure or judgement."

Are you a caregiver who could use advice or support? Point in Time offers individualized supports to caregivers through free and voluntary Family Support, Early Intervention, Counselling and Therapy Programs. Family Support workers who are trained in Early Childhood Education and Social Service Work can help you with your children, whether it's dealing with relationships, understanding behaviours, developmental concerns, or helping with routines and other practical matters.

The Quick Access Clinic is also the main gateway into other services and supports at Point in Time. Children, youth and families may be referred to additional services to suit their specific needs.

Call 705-457-5345 or email info@pointintime.ca to make a Quick Access appointment. The process is quick, easy, and confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out and staff will try to be as flexible as possible.

Children, youth and families who are feeling overwhelmed and need help immediately may contact Crisis Services. Staff can address concerns, provide tools and resources, promote strengths, help assess risk, and help create a plan for moving forward. Workers are available during office hours from Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. After hours crisis support is provided by 310-COPE, who can update Point in Time staff to ensure follow-up and ongoing support. Youth or caregivers experiencing a crisis outside of Point in Time's hours can call 310-COPE at 1-855-310-2673 for phone crisis support.

For youth aged 12 to 25, the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub Ontario (YWHO) offers many programs and services. The Youth Hub is in the village of Haliburton and provides both a range of social, recreational and fun activities as well as a range of other supports, including mental health and addiction counseling, day-to-day health care, sexual health, and trans-positive care services.

The Youth Hub is co-created by youth in Haliburton County and hosts weekly drop-ins, as well as mobile outreach, so follow them on social media to see about activities and when they are coming to your community next. Visit @halicountyyouthhub on Instagram or call the Hub at 705-457-2727.

High School students can access our High School Clinic upon referral by high school staff. The clinic is available three half days per week. A counsellor is available to meet with high school students by appointment who may be dealing with any number of challenges or concerns. School staff can contact Point in Time to refer students, with their consent.

Finally, Point in Time offers and co-facilitates in person and virtual therapeutic recreation programs such as Young Warriors and Mindfulness Martial Arts for youth, Mindfulness workshops, and summer camps. Request to be on the email notification list by emailing info@pointintime.ca so you know the dates in advance!

The team at Point in Time are committed to listening to and working with those with lived and living experience in providing evidence informed, responsive services and approaches. To find out more information about their mission, staff, and programming, visit www.pointintime.ca or call 705-457-5345.

Submitted

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire *
Foodland *
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Home Hardware *
Home Health Care *
Minden Valumart *
Pharmasave *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
The Source *
Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Wildlife in your backyard

Fall marten submitted by Colin Bruce

Submitted by Colin Bruce

Minden
Community Food Centre
Christmas Hampers

Call in applications begin November 22 - 26 and November 29 - December 3 from 10 am to 2 pm.

CALL 705-286-6400

Hamper pick up is Tuesday, December 21.

If your surname begins with A-M PICK UP AT 1 pm
N-Z PICK UP AT 2 pm

MCFC is closed
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Algonquin, before the snow

We went yurting in the Park
Just before December came
Strange time, maybe, since it's stark
Yet, raw beauty can proclaim
Parts of frost hills still aflame

With brave swaths of tamarack
Fading now from gold to bare
Though the chill could turn us back
Perching in the thin blue air
Twitching like a fretful bear

Calculating when to sleep
Short breaths leave her puff by puff
Woolly, as if counting sheep
Cave waits under granite bluff
Belly now to fully stuff

Bull moose treads alone through weeds
Twisting fairies steam on lake
From his muzzle, dangling reeds
Make his heavy head slow-shake
Edgy beaver: double-take

Water here, November's whim
Mirrors either grey or black
Or in hard suspension waits
Until later sun beats back
Iciness that rays might crack

Babbling falls begin to freeze
Turquoise as in Narnia
Staying fed, no more a breeze
Even crow shouts nervous caw
Such is winter's harsher law

Sunset low through hole in pine
Campfire doused to belching tower
Hissing smoke in freak design
Signalling our card game-hour
Indoors, safe electric power

When at midnight, outside call
Looking high, I see the milk-
Smear of constellations scrawl
Winking clusters, starry silk
Nightly cartoons, or the ilk

Rush my bare feet back to bag
Note a timely far wolf howl
Messaging his pack to flag
Same intent as lone barred owl
All long night, cold creatures prowl

Lie awake and think of world
Glad to be atop its chest
Like an infant fetal-curled
Feeling small and warm in rest
Knowing all alive are blessed

Deborah Reed

Ghosts

Tall grasses trembling beneath a clay Sky,
Wind hurling leaves from their heaps,
piled on the sides of the road,
that curves like a River beneath
my worn soles, rambling along this unknown road,
uncertain where it will lead, my feet following the flurry of leaves,
whirling through Air, skittering along the road,
some blown into the forest fringing the road,
to nestle with their con-freres, crumpled on the ground.
I round the bend of the flowing road,
reeds, bleached to wheat, greeting me,
their spines swaying alongside cattails that spring from the marsh,
a thin skin of ice sheathing its surface.
I stop to stare at this harbinger of winter, wrapping my arms around my coat,
an extra layer to shield me from these blades of Wind,
piercing my skin, nicking my cheeks.
The mirror of marsh, dulled by the slab of clay Sky, hovering above it,
reflecting blurred branches of spindly trees, creaking like rocking chairs all around me.
I gaze at the sticks of trees, poking out of the marsh,
limbless and leafless, their trunks skinned, their roots withered,
yet still they cling to the sludge and drowned earth,
without toppling over, whittled down to their bare essence,
these ghosts of trees, radiating their own spectral light,
as a slant of Sun slides through the clouds, bathing the marsh in a wash of silver,
its silence swelling inside me, 'till I'm ready to leave,
carrying the image of the graveyard of trees within me,
relics of what once flourished and bloomed.
The faint bleating of sheep blanketing the Air,
leading my feet further along the road, kicking leaves, watching them flee Wind,
'till I reach a field, peering over the broken fence,
at the herd of sheep bleating their way across the grass,
the sound lulling me into stillness and memory,
the ghost of a grandfather, who lived across the sea, herding his sheep over the hills,
a St. Bernard and walking stick, whittled with his own hands, his loyal company.
I gaze after the cloud of sheep, 'till they disappear, their bleating fading into the Air,
quietly thanking the road for leading me here, as I graze the grooves on the wooden fence, remembering the curve of his cane, the grandpa that I barely knew,
who held my hand as we climbed, reaching the spot where the whole valley unfurled below us,
never feeling so tiny and giant, at the same time.

Sylvie Kalenda

ROTARY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
"Drive-Thru" Edition
Saturday, December 4th
5:30pm - 7:30pm
"Drive-Thru" at Curry Chevrolet Service Reception
Visit SANTA and the ELVES from a distance
PIZZA SLICES and JUICE BOXES for everyone
GIFT BAGS for all the kids
ENTER either by Todd's Independent at the lights or Curry Chevrolet's driveway.
All vehicles visiting Santa will have a Chance to
Win 1 of 12 Free Turkeys!
Thanks for your support of the Community Christmas Party!
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Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a Total of $1500.00 (One thousand Five hundred dollars) in gift certificate from any Haliburton B.I.A member. Gift Certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of $1500, or multiple denominations of no less than $100. The Grand prize total is not to exceed $1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.

What I learned this week, don'tcha know

Maybelle's

Fireside stories

WELL, WOULDN'T you know, ol' Maybelle decided to keep track by looking back at my week to see what I learned, if I learned anything at all, don'tcha know. 'Cause learning stuff is important. Keeps my mind sharp and my lips flapping which is good. Conversation, I'm all for it. Keeping communal in my community of Lake WhaddayathinkImean. And speaking of Lake W …

One of the things I learned this week is that aging in my town is *very* popular. Oh yes. *Everybody's* doing it. You'd think it was a craze or trend. But it's simply that the median age is 2000. Okay, 65. It's like we all suddenly got old together. Like aged cheddar with mould on the side. We're one big grey-haired convention of three thousand folks! With the occasional Clairol-enhanced red-head, don'tcha know.

I also learned that we're split right down the middle about the way we think about aging – what aging is, what it means, and how we choose to deal with it. Some would say, like my good friend, Twindle Mumbly, "What choice do we have? Age is age. You are what you are. If you're 80 you're not 25. It's as simple as that."

Well, according to my dearly departed mother, Milliebelle, who ol' Maybelle loved dearly: "That's a lot of hogwash! We *do* have a choice about how we feel as we age, what we think about it, and the things we choose to do in the process."

'Ol Milliebelle was one young old gal to reckon with."

She would always say to me: "You're only as old as you think." Now that's key right there. "As you think. In other words, age is a numbers game … and you get to choose how you play it – what you tell yourself about the number of those candles on your cake."

Why, she was a Gap girl until the day she passed. My favourite T-shirt that she bought there was black with long sleeves and had a patent leather call to action on its chest: *Inspire*. And she sure inspired me, don'tcha know. Why when Milliebelle was 85, she was still wearing Gap jeans and two-and-a-half inch heels. And when she smiled her big warm smile, she became ageless. All you'd see was a big light shining at you like a Christmas tree in August.

I also learned this week in a book I read called: *Aging Backwards* by Miranda Esmonde-White (a former Canadian ballerina) that by doing a specific type of stretching exercise routine *every day*, you can feel ten years younger.

When I told Twindle Mumbly that I started doing her exercises he said: "Maybelle, if you keep doing those exercises, you might age backwards like Benjamin Button and end up being fed pablum instead of eating steak."

I'll take my chances," I told him.

I also learned that one of the most important simple exercises we all need to do is – wiggle our toes. Yep. Wiggle them, and stretch our arches by standing on your toes, then dropping down on our heels. Good to hold on to the back of a chair while you're doing it. Because when we don't exercise our toes, they can atrophy and become more like just a part of our foot, and that can make us walk like an old person. What keeps us young is mobility and agility. So, I'm all for wiggling my toes all the time now.

I learned that after two years of wearing a mask, my face dropped. Yep, dropped and drooped 'til I hardly recognized myself. Why, I figure it's from not smiling nearly as much behind that mask. You see, 'ol Maybelle always loved to smile. It made me feel good and I know that a smile makes other people feel better, too. So, realizing that, I've started smiling behind a mask, ear-to-ear. Got to get those facial muscles working again, don'tcha know. Plus, smiling gets your endorphins working which just helps to cheer us up.

So, from my hearth to yours … keep smiling, wiggle those toes, and who knows … you just might enjoy eating pablum again.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden whose novel, "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon," and "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You" are available at amazon.com.

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton
705-457-2571
Tuesday Night
Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept - June)
Wednesdays:
Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays:
General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays:
Meat draw five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Don Ptiman, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays:
50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw,
Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com
Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129...everyone is welcome!

*** New Clubroom Hours: Mon 3 to 7 p.m., Tues 3 to 9 p.m., Wed to Fri 3 to 7 p.m. & Sat 2 to 8 p.m.**

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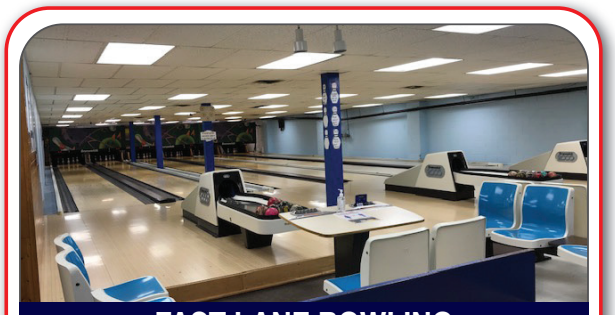

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Send your letters to the editor to katrina@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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The Christmas season is upon us

NEWS FROM the North Pole travels fast and word on the street is the big man himself is going to be in Haliburton Village this Friday, Nov. 26.

That's right, the annual Santa Claus Parade is returning and the evening of festivities kicks off downtown at 6 p.m. in front of the Village Barn with a tree lighting ceremony and live music performed by Gord Kidd. The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will follow the usual downtown route through the village. This year Covid protocols will be in affect and parade spectators are being asked to stay six feet apart and wear a mask. And be sure to welcome parade marshall and community personality Mike Jaycock with a friendly but socially distant wave!

ANGELICA INGRAM
BIA in the Village

If you have been out and about shopping in the past few days you have probably noticed the return of the popular Haliburton BIA Buy In And Win promotion. A crowd favourite, the contest kicked off on November 19 and will be running until Dec. 23.

Simply visit any BIA member and fill out a ballot for your chance to win $1,500 in gift certificates. The more often you shop, the more chances you have to enter. On Dec. 24, the winner will be drawn live on air at noon on the Moose FM. The gift certificates can be redeemed at any BIA member business. For a full list of contest rules, visit the BIA's Facebook page. Remember, the more you shop the more opportunities you have to win!

Speaking of shopping, another popular event is returning this year after a one-year hiatus and that is Ladies Shopping Night. Taking place on Dec. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m., Ladies Shopping Night is a fun and merry way to get everyone checked off your Christmas list while enjoying sales, sipping hot chocolate and getting a chance to win more great prizes! Begin your evening by picking up a passport, which has a list of participating businesses. Simply visit five or more businesses and get your card filled up with signatures. At the end of the night drop your passport into our raffle, for a chace to win a $100 gift card to the BIA business of your choice! On top of staying open late, many of our downtown retailers will be offering great discounts and promotions that night, as well as door prizes. Need to warm up while you shop? Visit our hot chocolate station in front of the Village Barn and enjoy the delightful sounds of carolers strolling through the streets. This event is one you won't want to miss and the best part is you don't have to drive far to get everything you need for the holidays. Keep your eye out for more info coming soon, including a list of participating retailers.

In recent days, our town banners have been removed and the beautiful snowflake lights have returned just in time for the Christmas season. A beautiful Christmas tree was erected in front of the Village Barn and once again we invite everyone to help us decorate it by putting up their very own ornament. It can be sentimental, homemade or both! The choice is yours. Simply add it to the tree for all to admire.

Until next month stay safe, stay healthy and stay festive.

Top 10 floats that did not make it into our Santa Claus parade

We are almost at that time of year when the streets are lined with Santa Claus parades. A lot goes into organizing these joyous events, but what we all seem to forget is that the organizers sometimes have to reject a few floats or marchers because they might not be in keeping with the flavour of the event. Here are the top 10 that had to be rejected this year.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. The "I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus and several elves" float.
2. The Elven Local 502 "We deserve a living wage" float.
3. The Haliburton Flatulaters Instrumentless Marching Wind Band.
4. The Slingshot Society's "Catch the Candy" float.
5. The Reindeer Meat Growers Association's float.
6. The Eggnog and Too Much Rum Society's Wobbly Marching Band.
7. The six-person Bad at Math Quartet float.
8. The Professional Snowball Throwers League's float.
9. The Flat Tire Society's float.
10. The Roadkill Enthusiasts of Haliburton County float.

Algonquin Highlands resident Tammy Nash observed this chipmunk and captured the animal on its way down a tree. Submitted by Tammy Nash

Christmas cactus - solace for the solstice

During the first weeks of November, we begin to see Christmas cactuses appearing in our local grocery stores, hardware stores and flower shops. They are full of buds with the promise of colourful blooms which is exactly what we need to get us through the dark days of November and December. These undemanding plants are easy to care for and will last many seasons with just a little attention at the proper times of the year.

The parents of modern plants were originally found in the coastal mountains of the Brazilian rain forest. These epiphytes-which means a plant the grows on top of another plant non parasitically were found among the tree branches. The English and Europeans fell in love with this tough versatile cactus and brought it back to their greenhouses as early as 1818. Here they cross pollinated them for flower colour and size. These cacti became showpieces in their houses where they were popular because of their autumn and winter flowering.

In Canada, these beautiful house plants are very popular at Christmas (and their cousins at Easter) for their reliable and abundant blooms. The flowers can be yellow, pink, coral, fushia, white or bi-coloured. Unlike the other Christmas favourite, poinsettia, Christmas cactus are not toxic to dogs or cats. If properly cared for they can reach 20 to 40 years of age.

Christmas cactus in full bloom. /Submitted

Your responsibilities as a cactus owner starts as soon as you put that beautiful plant in your shopping cart. Make sure before you leave the store that it is well wrapped to keep out the drafts and cold. When you get home find a bright window – usually east although some sources say south is best during the blooming period. Check the dampness of the soil and water lightly if necessary. Christmas cactus need moist soil for proper blooming but cannot abide wet feet so make sure there is no standing water at the base of the plant. There is no need to fertilize at this point.

Blooms last two to three days and you can gently pinch off the spent blooms as they fade. Usually, the plants will give you up to three weeks of blossoms with proper moisture. I have had people tell me that sometimes their cactus is still blooming at the end of January. How lucky they are! When flowering is over, you can move your plant to a lower light level. Christmas cactus adapt easily to lower light conditions as they rest from the blooming period.

Pruning and repotting are recommended four to six weeks after blooming has finished. The general rule for pruning is you can safely remove one-third of the plant. Pruning is done by gently grasping the segment you want to remove and twist. Generally, however, pruning is only done on plants that are several years old. The segments that you have removed are perfect candidates for propagation. Allow each pruned segment to air dry until a callus forms. Insert the segment about one-fourth of its length into slightly dampened soil. Place the pot in a well-lit area out of direct sunlight. Keep the soil moist and mist occasionally with room temperature water.

Repotting at this time is also recommended. However, keep in mind that Christmas cactuses like to be a bit cramped in their pots. Good cactus soil is the best with a ceramic pot, not plastic.

For the remainder of the winter and spring your plant will be happy with light watering, indirect light and an occasional misting.

Some cactus owners put their plants out in the garden for the summer in indirect sunlight, making sure to water during dry spells. This option is purely up to the individual owner. If you do put your plant outside make sure it comes in before any hint of frost. Clean all stems with a wet cloth and check for pests. If there is any evidence of pests a spray of insecticidal soap or an application of diatomaceous earth will control most infestations.

You have now brought your plants through winter, spring, and summer. In the fall usually the first or second week of September place your pots in a room which ensures them eight to 10 hours of darkness. Spare bedrooms work well. Basements are usually too cold and damp causing plants to rot. Remember to water lightly. At about 4 weeks bring them back to a bright window and apply a house plant fertilizer at half strength. Within two to four weeks you should see buds forming at the ends of the most mature segments. No more fertilizer is necessary. If you want to move your plant to another location this is the time to do it.

Now you can sit back, enjoy your blooms, and give yourself a green thumbs up!

Lee Ann Hobson, Haliburton County Master Gardener

Haliburton County Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization that provides horticultural advice specific to Haliburton and surrounding regions. Have your gardening questions answered or schedule an onsite consultation at www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE?

BUYERS ARE EAGERLY WAITING TO PURCHASE A PIECE OF PARADISE IN HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Ted Vasey
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Carolling starts at 5:00 pm at the Town Tree and the Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm. You are invited to bring a decoration for the tree.

REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET

The parade route is on Highland Street (main street) from Pine Avenue to York Street

The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

Bonnie Roe dedicates recent award to those who died in long-term care

Mike Perry, Olivia Chow, founder and executive director of Institute for Change Leaders, and Bonnie Roe, at the ICL awards ceremony in Toronto. /Submitted

Katrina Boguski
County Life Editor

On Nov 16, Bonnie Roe was presented with an award in Toronto from the Institute for Change. Leaders (ICL). The award, issued to alumni of the ICL, recognizes Roe's dedication in advocating for lasting change in long-term care facilities.

During a phone interview, Roe said it's an honour to be nominated. She noted that her name was put forward by Mike Perry who is one of the co-founders of Haliburton City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition. The name of this organization appears along side Roe's on the award.

A statement from ICL announcing the award said, "More than 50 people attended the coalition's town hall on fixing long-term care; unanimously adopting a plan of action that included more pay and hours of care for workers. A petition was signed by more than 5,000 people."

"ICL was proud to work with the coalition to provide training on how to use their stories to campaign and develop effective strategies and tactics."

It went on to say,"They used their resources of pressure and access to media to meet with their local MPP, ultimately calling her out in the local press for not acting. Within weeks, $4 million in new funding to pay for more care in the local nursing homes was announced; great news for local seniors and workers ... and a community win!"

Roe is grateful for the funding, and sees it as a step in the right direction, but believes it is only a fraction of the support required to address issues in long-term care.

Roe said, "We truly feel blessed to continue to fight for change for the LTC crisis in Ontario. I am so honoured to recognize the dedicated efforts of each of our amazing members who receive this award with me."

Other members of the group include: Mike Perry, Terry Hartwick, Brigitte Gebauer, Dorothy Owen, Lyn Ritchie, Trina West, Susan Taylor, Gillian Steven, Kane Patterson, Mary Ray, and past members Joli Scheidler-Benns and Caroline Feneilus-Carpenter.

Roe dedicated the award to the people who have lost their lives in long-term care during COVID-19 and to the families who lost loved ones.

To find out more about the work of the Long Term Care Coalition visit, www.ltcneedsyou.ca.

Thank you!

Katrina Boguski
County Life Editor

A huge thank you goes out to all of the contributors who have made my short stint as editor of *County Life* a fantastic experience. Haliburton County is filled with many outstanding writers, photographers and artists. Getting to know some of you through your submissions has been a treat.

Thank you also to the readers who faithfully pick up each week's edition and offer positive feedback. I am especially grateful to those who have written in with words of encouragement.

I entered the newspaper world through the advertising door, and constantly am aware that our advertisers pay for the ink and wages necessary to produce this paper. Thank you to all of those businesses who support *County Life* by purchasing ads.

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Removing the stigma from mental illness

JANET TRULL

Special to County Life

My friends once had a daughter, sweet and shy. Katie was her name. She had a bedroom full of ponies and unicorns and she loved the safe sanctuary of her home. School was hard. But her parents worked with her to memorize stuff for tests and practice multiplication tables and she did okay. She was a happy kid with a few close friends. Her parents never anticipated what lay ahead. They never saw the storm coming.

When Katie started experiencing anxiety in high school, one of her friends offered her something that would help. And wow. It really did relieve the panicky feeling she got when she had to answer in class or hang out in social groups. That's how a seven year addiction started. It ended with an unintentional overdose of OxyContin that took her life at age 24.

This tragedy came after seven long years of trauma and treatment centres and heartbreak. Her behaviour made family events, like birthdays and weddings, stressful and unpredictable.

"I lost Katie twice," her mother confides when she tells her daughter's story. "I lost her when addiction took hold of her, and I lost her again when she died. The girl who used to make popcorn and cuddle up with me on the couch to watch movies disappeared. She turned into an an unrecognizable stranger."

When Katie died, her parents felt broken. On Christmas Day, they didn't want to see her empty stocking by the fireplace. Instead, they drove to Niagara Falls and her dad told me he stood at the edge of the mighty cataract and felt a connection to Katie's struggle. "She didn't have the energy to fight the powerful adrenaline of addiction," he said. "It was like trying to save herself from going over the falls."

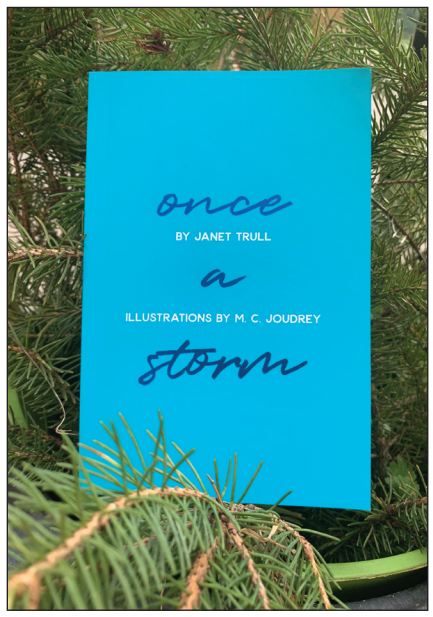
With this image in mind, I wrote a short story to commemorate their journey with Katie. It is a love story, really, about parents who never give up, and hearts that refuse to forget the children caught in the strong current of addiction. I called the book, Once a Storm. The dedication to Katie is as follows:

Once a peaceful, loving child.
Once a teenager suffering from anxiety.
Once a young adult addicted to OxyContin.
Once a victim of accidental overdose.
Forever a blue-eyed angel.

There are greeting cards available for all of life's significant moments. Birthdays, anniversaries, retirements and graduations. At Bay Press, a small publishing company in Winnipeg, started a "From the Heart" series of small books that offer condolences when a card doesn't seem like enough. Once a Storm is part of that series. It sells for $6.95 at Rails End Gallery, and proceeds will go to a local organization. Point in Time promotes the well-being of children, youth and parents in Haliburton County with a wide range of services. They understand that when children have difficulties, the whole family is affected.

I grew up in a household where mental illness was a secret. When my father was diagnosed with manic depression (now called bipolar disorder), my mother made it clear it was not something to discuss. No teacher or neighbour or Girl Guide leader ever asked me how things were going at home, even though everyone in my small town knew that he was having "breakdowns". It took many years of hospitalizations and treatments, but my dad did get better.

Hopefully, the stigma that shadowed my childhood has been replaced with understanding. Untreated mental illnesses seldom resolve themselves. I recommend the Canadian Mental Health Association website as a great place to get helpful information. CMHA.ca.



Janet Trull's new book is now available at Rails End Gallery. /Submiited

And it is important to share our own stories. If you know someone who feels isolated by mental illness or addiction, Katie's story, Once a Storm, might help them realize they are not alone.

Community Events

Send your event listing to Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Blades & Beyond
A virtual Friends Cafe, featuring Kurt Browning. Presented by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library
When: Wed. Dec. 1, 1 to 2 p.m.
Information & Registration: bit.ly/Friends-Café-with-Kurt-Browning
Have a question? Contact: Pat 705-286-1958
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When: 10 top 2 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month. Payment is by donation.
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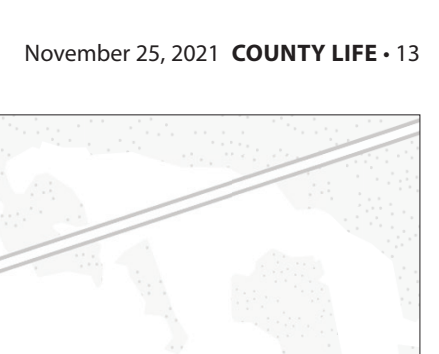

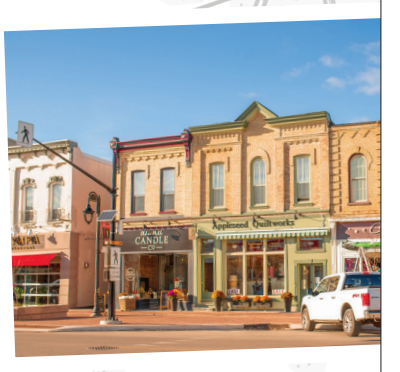

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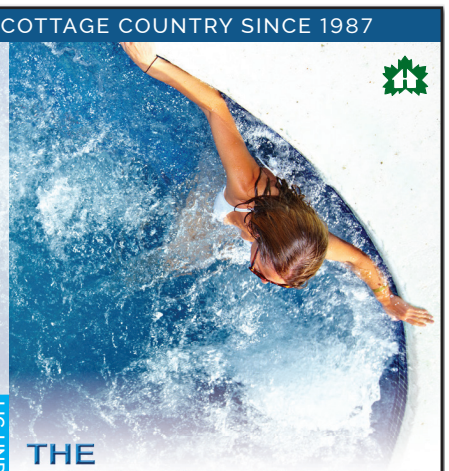

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MSRP $65,505 **OUR PRICE $56,036**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK #21193
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / BEDLINER / TOW / SPORT HOOD / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START / HTD SEATS / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BLUETOOTH!
MSRP $62,355 **OUR PRICE $53,886**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK #21224
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / TOW / BLUETOOTH / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BEDLINER / BACKUP CAM / CRUISE CONTROL!
MSRP $61,755 **OUR PRICE $53,286**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK#21203
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / DIAMOND BLACK / REMOTE START / SPORT HOOD / BLUETOOTH / PWR DRIVER SEAT / BACKUP CAM / HTD SEATS!
MSRP $58,205 **OUR PRICE $49,736**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK#21137
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / HYDRO BLUE / BEDLINER / BED LIGHTING / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR DRIVER SEAT / SPORT HOOD / BLUETOOTH / BACKUP CAM!
MSRP $57,660 **OUR PRICE $49,191**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK#21159
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / MAXIMUM STEEL / TOW / BEDLINER / TONNEAU COVER / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR DRIVER SEAT / SPORT HOOD / BACKUP CAM!
MSRP $58,705 **OUR PRICE $50,236**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK#21143
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / GRANITE CRYSTAL / TOW / BEDLINER / TONNEAU COVER / HTD SEATS / REMOTE START / PWR DRIVER SEAT / SPORT HOOD / BACKUP CAM!
MSRP $58,705 **OUR PRICE $50,236**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK #21223
4X4 / HEMI V8 / QUAD CAB / HTD SEATS / PWR DRIVER SEAT / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / BACKUP CAM / CRUISE CONTROL / TOW!
MSRP $59,650 **OUR PRICE $50,900**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC NIGHT EDITION SUB ZERO STOCK #21142
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MSRP $61,455 **OUR PRICE $52,986**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK STOCK #21205
4X4 / V6 / QUAD CAB / BILLET SILVER / REMOTE ENTRY / BACKUP CAM / SATELLITE RADIO / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL!
MSRP $58,545 **OUR PRICE $49,076**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK STOCK #21214
4X4 / V6 / CREW CAB / TOW / BACKUP CAM / SPORT HOOD / BLUETOOTH / REMOTE ENTRY / PARK ASSIST / SATELLITE RADIO / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
MSRP $61,185 **OUR PRICE $51,716**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK STOCK #21171
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / MAXIMUM STEEL / TOW / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / SPORT HOOD / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / SATELLITE RADIO!
MSRP $63,205 **OUR PRICE $53,736**
Plus HST & Licensing

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK STOCK #21127
4X4 / HEMI V8 / CREW CAB / GRANITE CRYSTAL / HTD SEATS / TOW / SPORT HOOD / REMOTE START / BLUETOOTH / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / HTD SEATS / 20" RIMS!
MSRP $63,205 **OUR PRICE $53,736**
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Plus HST & Licensing

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OUR PRICE $28,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE STOCK #2764
CLEAN CARFAX / AWD / 2.0L / BLUETOOTH / REMOTE START / NAV / BACKUP CAM / HTD SEATS / CRUISE CONTROL / PANORAMIC SUNROOF / TOW!
OUR PRICE $26,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2017 BUICK ENVISION ESSENCE STOCK #2758
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OUR PRICE $27,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2013 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL STOCK #21069A
AWD / 2.4L / HTD SEATS / CRUISE CONTROL / BLUETOOTH / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS / REMOTE ENTRY!
OUR PRICE $10,999
Plus HST & Licensing

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Plus HST & Licensing

2018 NISSAN VERSA NOTE SR STOCK #2763
CLEAN CARFAX / 1.6L / NAV / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE ENTRY / SATELLITE RADIO / BLUETOOTH / HTD SEATS / CRUISE CONTROL / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
OUR PRICE $13,999
Plus HST & Licensing

2013 FORD FOCUS SE STOCK #2749
CLEAN CARFAX / AUTOMATIC / 2.0L / REMOTE ENTRY / SATELLITE RADIO / HTD SEATS / BLUETOOTH / CRUISE CONTROL / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!
OUR PRICE $6,999
Plus HST & Licensing

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THIS WEEK

A delicate balance

Planning reforms defended at Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations meeting ... see page 3

THIS WEEK

Dreaming of better facilities

Community asked for ideas on what might be included in Haliburton school additions... see page 4

FEATURE

Love that Chocolate!

Sweet dreams fulfilled at workshop ... see page 23

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1994

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY

ECHO

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MNR forestry fund cut down by critics

by STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Reporter

Thursday's much-anticipated announcement on forest management came as a "slap in the face" for frustrated and fed-up private forest owners, who vow that the felling of trees will continue.

At the 1994 Trenton Fall Farm Woodlot Conference, the Minister of Natural Resources, Howard Hampton, unveiled a $2-million incentive program to encourage Ontario forest owners to manage their lands sustainably.

The "vague" announcement of what is being called a Private Forests Sustainability Fund came as a major disappointment to landowners, who were hopeful the issue of tax assessment would be addressed.

The fund is the province's response to private forest owners' demands for a fairer method of property taxation. Since the provincial government cut the Managed Forest Tax Rebate in 1993 — which encouraged sustainable forest management through property tax rebates — forest owners have been faced with tax hikes of up to 300 per cent. In order to pay for their "exorbitant" property taxes, forest owners say they must overharvest their lands.

As a bargaining tool in their fight for the re-instatement of the program in some form, owners have threatened to close off their forests to the public and clearcut their lands to pay for the high taxes. A November deadline imposed by the Haliburton Forest Owners Association to lock their gates for this winter was recently extended to next fall. This brought a sigh of relief from county business people who rely on the use of private forests for winter trails to attract tourists into the area. However the threat of a winter closure for next November is still looming.

The MNR initiative includes a $2-million fund to be used by "local stewardship councils," which will be set up and coordinated by 50 designated MNR staffpersons across the province.

MNR Minister Howard Hampton said the co-ordinators' roles will be to assist private woodlot owners and "encourage grass-roots involvement in sustainable private woodlands development and management."

The scheme encourages "woodlot owners, sustainability co-ordinators and non-government partners to work as a team to promote good stewardship of private forest lands."

Hampton said the funding will be used for various projects to encourage sustainable forest management, on the approval of the councils to be formed.

"Woodlot owners will be able to use the $2-million Private Forests Sustainability Fund and will have access to financial planning advice, local resource co-ordinators and MNR information resources," said Hampton.

Victoria-Haliburton Conservative MPP Chris Hodgson, opposition critic to the MNR, cut down the program with swift and critical response.

He points out the program fails to address the inequities of the current tax structure for private forest owners and that "the NDP government is missing the point on the private forest issue."

"The provincial government isn't making it any more affordable for people to keep their trees

Please turn to page 2

Hydro job cuts may leave homes in dark for longer periods

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

About 18 months after eight jobs were trimmed in an earlier realignment, a further 13 positions at Ontario Hydro's Minden branch will be eliminated in the new year.

Five power line maintenance workers, three foresters, four billing staff and one clerical employee have been told their positions will be made surplus in January, due to the recent restructuring Hydro carried out at its Lakeland utility, said Rick Kellestine, Minden's customer operations manager.

Ontario Hydro decided at the beginning of the month to disband its Lakeland utility, which included Minden, Bancroft and Tweed, and amalgamate the operation centres with neighbouring utilities.

Minden has been absorbed by Hydro's Muskoka-Parry Sound branch, while Bancroft and Tweed joined Trent Hydro.

Last week management staff at the receiving utilities and the three operation centres met to figure out where jobs would have to be eliminated in the restructuring.

While this latest round of staff cuts will reduce the number of employees at Minden's operation centre to 45 from 58, Hydro management says the same level of service will continue to be offered to customers.

However, union representative Paul Sisson disagrees. He says customers will likely have to wait longer for their power to be restored after major outages. On top of that, they will lose the opportunity to handle billing concerns in person at the Minden office.

Kellestine said the reduction in Minden's power line maintenance staff may create some delays during more serious blackouts, but should not cause problems otherwise.

"If there was a large power outage, it could have an effect," he said. "But on a regular day-to-day basis it wouldn't be any different than it is now. We would still have two people on call 24 hours a day, as we do now."

When there are severe power outages, Kellestine and Sisson

Please turn to page 4

Riding in the Santa Claus parade...

If it's fun to watch a Santa Claus parade, it's even more exciting to ride on a float, as scores of local children discovered Saturday. For more, see pages 17 & 18

Too much talk...

See Editorial, page 6

MEETING SANTA: Local youngsters got a chance to talk to Santa Claus and have their picture taken with him on Saturday, following the parade that welcomed the jolly old gent to town. Santa's knees got a workout as more than 100 children climbed up to have a quiet chat with him about what they want for Christmas.

Board must 'act quickly' on fate of Victoria St. school

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The director of the Haliburton County Board of Education has recommended that the newly elected school board make a final decision on the fate of Victoria Street Elementary School in March 1995.

And members of the public will have the chance to help determine the 70-year-old school's future at a February 14 meeting of the board's management committee.

In the meantime, Brad Saunders has told trustees to review the board's school closure policy to make certain it conforms to provincial requirements.

Should the board to decide to shut down Victoria Street and make room for its students by building an addition at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School, it will need to act quickly to meet the the government's approval schedule for the expansion project, he said.

A further deadline for the board to have its Junior Kindergarten program fully in place by the fall of 1997 is also hanging on the horizon, placing additional pressure on it to finalize building plans at JDHES.

Last month, the board hired the Huntsville-based architectural firm of Stewart Smith to carry out renovation projects at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and JDHES.

The firm has been given approval to go ahead with preliminary plans for the high school renovation, but the proposed addition at the elementary school has been put on hold until the board decides whether or not to close Victoria Street and expand at JDHES.

In 1988, the school board in power declared Victoria Street a candidate for closure due to various safety deficiencies that were found in an architectural study and began seeking funding from the province to replace it.

Last year, that funding, as well as a grant allocation to construct JK rooms, was approved.

While many in the community have assumed that the board has already decided to close the doors to Victoria Street, that decision was not made by the board in power in 1988 and has not been made by any board elected to office since, said Saunders.

"The board made absolutely no decision one way or another. It simply said the school was a candidate for closure."

If people say they want the school to remain open, the director of education has said members of the board would have to balance the views of the community against the information they have on the state of the school when they make their final decision.

Please turn to page 16

Legacy.

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TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD $1,995,000

A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County. Price is plus HST

MOUNTAIN STREET $539,000

Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood. This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bdrms and full bathrm on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroom and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom, renovated 3pc bathrm, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

KAWAGAMA LAKE $279,000

Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

STILLS ROAD $128,500

This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of Eagle Lake. Driveway installed and building site is cleared and ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach and boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage.

WENONA LAKE $94,500

Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy.

CHELSEA LANE $69,900

This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain-Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, between Carnarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet area. Ample privacy and lots of space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.